



Rural District Council of Chester-le-Street.



• **R** E P O R T •

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,

FOR PART OF THE

Year ending 31st Dec., 1895

13th July to 31st December.



Table of DEATHS during part of the Year 1895, in the Chester-le-Street Rural District, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; public institutions being shown as separate localities.	MORTALITY FROM ALL CAUSES, AT SUBJOINED AGES.							MORTALITY FROM SUBJOINED CAUSES, DISTINGUISHING DEATHS OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE YEARS OF AGE.																																												
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	85 and upwards.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22																						
																															Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia & Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Gastro-Enteritis.	Injuries.	All Other Diseases.	TOTAL.
																																			Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.													
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)	(g)	(h)	(i)																																												
BARMSTON	4	1	1			2		Under 5																																												
								5 upwds.														1								1		2																				
BIDDICK, SOUTH	1	1						Under 5																	1	1						2																				
								5 upwds.																						1		1																				
BIRTLEY	53	29	7	2	2	9	4	Under 5	1																																											
								5 upwds.						1								5			5	1	2	1	21			36																				
BURNMOOR	12	2	2	1	1	4	2	Under 5															4		3		1	8			17																					
								5 upwds.						1											1		2	1			4																					
CHESTER-LE-STREET	104	50	13	7	2	18	14	Under 5		1				1									1		2			4			8																					
								5 upwds.														10			9		15	1	26			63																				
COCKEN	1	1						Under 5								1						2	1	4	4	4		2	23			41																				
								5 upwds.														1										1																				
EDMONDSLEY	26	14	3		2	3	4	Under 5																																												
								5 upwds.	1					1								3			5		3		6			17																				
HARRATON	29	9	8	1	3	4	4	Under 5																	4				3			9																				
								5 upwds.						1								3					4	1	9			17																				
LAMBTON	1					1		Under 5														1				2	1	1	6			12																				
								5 upwds.																																												
LAMESLEY	40	15	4	3	5	7	6	Under 5	1																																											
								5 upwds.	1													4					1					1																				
LUMLEY, GREAT	20	10	3			4	3	Under 5		1															2		2		10			19																				
								5 upwds.																					9			21																				
LUMLEY, LITTLE	1	1						Under 5																	2				7			13																				
								5 upwds.																																												
OUSTON	9	3	3	1	1		1	Under 5		1																																										
								5 upwds.	1					1																																						
PELTON	54	26	13	3	3	8	1	Under 5		2		1																																								
								5 upwds.	1																																											
PLAWSWORTH	12	3	1			3	5	Under 5																																												
								5 upwds.																																												
URPETH	17	9	1	1	2	3	1	Under 5				1																																								
								5 upwds.																																												
USWORTH	60	31	10	3	2	11	3	Under 5																																												
								5 upwds.																																												
WALDRIDGE	13	5	5	1		2		Under 5		3		1																																								
								5 upwds.																																												
WASHINGTON	42	17	6	1	2	10	6	Under 5																																												
								5 upwds.																																												
WITTON GILBERT	53	15	16	2	2	9	9	Under 5		1		1		1																																						
								5 upwds.		1				1																																						
WORKHOUSE	9			1		3	5	Under 5																																												
								5 upwds.																																												
Body floating in Wear						1		Under 5																																												
								5 upwds.																																												
TOTAL	562	242	96	27	27	102	68	Under 5		9	1	4		1															1		1																					
								5 upwds.		5				7			4					3	53	1	2	44	3	56	8	154		338																				
																						3	3	26	27	28	4	16	101		224																					

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CHESTER-LE-STREET.

January 21, 1896,

GENTLEMEN,

I herewith beg to present my ANNUAL REPORT for the part of 1895, between the 13th July and 31st December, and in the Report, I purpose dealing with the facts reviewed under the following divisions, viz:—*Vital Statistics; Infectious Diseases; and General Sanitation.*

POPULATION.—Since 1891, it has evidently been assumed that the population of your district has been increasing at the rate of 1.67 per cent. per annum, that being so, the population for the middle of 1895, would have been 53,905. Judging that that estimate was under the actual population, I took a census by obtaining from each Assistant Overseer in your district, the number of inhabited houses in the years 1891 and 1895. From the number in 1891, I was able to get the average population per house in the census year, and by multiplying the number of inhabited houses in 1895 by the average number resident in each house in 1891, a very accurate census can be made. I therefore estimate the population of your district for the middle of 1895, at 55,750. Appended are the figures: The acreage of your district is 36,001, and the average density of your population is 1.55 persons per acre nearly.

part of the year 1895, in the Chester-le-Street Rural District; classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

[illegible]

State here whether "Notification of Infectious Disease" is compulsory in the District?—Yes. Since when?—February, 1891.

blank headings the names of any that are notifiable in the District, and fill the columns accordingly.

such Hospital is situated; and if not within the District, state where it is situated _____ State here the name of _____

State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick of the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which

The number of births registered for the whole year is 2,270, which gives a birth rate of 40·7 per 1,000; and the number of deaths registered during the year, 1097, which is an annual death rate of 19·7 per 1,000. While the birth rate exceeds that of 1891 by 1·2 per 1,000, the death rate is less by 0·4 per 1,000 than the death rate of the previous year.

While I have been able to procure the actual number of births and deaths for the whole year, and have been able to strike an actual rate per 1,000, I have been unable to get any other numbers save for the time I have acted as M.O.H., and while the actual numbers are accurate, the rates deduced from these numbers are misleading. In dealing with a part of a year, the rate per 1,000 per annum assumes that an equal number died during a corresponding number of days at some other period of the same year. Now this does not always happen; it is a fact that the second half of the year produces more deaths than the first half of the year, and this is especially so as regards infants under one year old. We have the hot, dry months of August and September—months when diarrhœa is prevalent and fatal—while the colder months of February and March are almost guiltless of deaths from diarrhœa, but in striking a rate per 1,000 per annum, having only the figures for six months, I must assume that an equal number died during the other six months of the year. What I have said about diarrhœa applies to all other diseases.

The Phthisis (Consumption) death rate is 1 per 1,000, while the death rate from other respiratory diseases is 2·5 per 1,000, both being under those of 1894.

The number of deaths of children under 1 year old is 242, which is equal to an infantile death rate of 219 per 1,000 born.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever.—This has been a Scarlet Fever year. We have periodical waves of disease in addition to the annual wave of that same disease. The cause of this is not far to seek. It is a known fact that one attack of an infectious disease insures, to a very marked extent, that individual from a second attack of the same disease. When a large number of children have been attacked with, say Scarlet Fever, they are more or less protected from a second attack of Scarlet Fever. That being so, when next annual wave of fever is due, the number of susceptible children is comparatively small and no great outbreak occurs; but, during two or three years immunity, a large number of children has been born, all susceptible and suitable material on which the poison of scarlet fever can propagate itself, and a large outbreak is thus provided for. Such has been our experience this year. There were 326 cases notified, with 14 deaths, giving a case mortality of 4·2 per cent. The places chiefly attacked were Allerdean, Edmondsley, and Pelton Fell, the two latter places being amongst the most sanitary areas in your district. No doubt the spread of Scarlet Fever is largely due to carelessness of parents either visiting fever patients or, what is more dangerous, permitting patients convalescent from the disease, but in a highly infectious condition, to mix with their neighbours' children.

In all cases your Officers visited the house and left printed and verbal instructions with regard to the hygiene of the case. Offers of the benefits of the Isolation Hospital and a supply of disinfectants gratis were made in each case, and it is gratifying to know that in only one instance out of 33 removals to the hospital, did a second case occur in the same house.

Though the disease was prevalent in Pelton Fell, it was not considered necessary nor judicious to close the schools. In

each case the Schoolmaster was informed of the presence of infectious disease, and recommended to prevent any member of that family attending school until such time as he was furnished with a certificate from a Medical Practitioner of the freedom from infection of all in that house.

Typhoid Fever and Continued Fever.—During the half-year Typhoid Fever has never been epidemic, though sporadic cases have occurred throughout the district. There have been 72 cases notified, with 8 deaths, giving a case mortality of 11·1 per cent. The poison of Typhoid Fever is oftenest ingested, and consequently the facilities with which typhoid stools can enter a water supply, may always be taken as an index of the probability of an outbreak of Typhoid, while isolation will be a strong bar to such an outbreak. In isolating Typhoid patients, not only has one to overcome the inherent antipathy of people to part with a relative for removal to a hospital, but one has the dangers of removal to contend with. While Small-pox, Scarlet Fever, and Diphtheria, may be removed any reasonable distance, Typhoid patients on the other hand bear removal badly, and in many cases it is found highly dangerous, nay, impossible to effect it.

Diphtheria and Croup.—Happily in these dangerous diseases there has been no epidemic. The number of cases has been 16, with 5 deaths, being a case mortality of 31·2 per cent. This mortality, without doubt, is large, but I have every confidence that with improved sanitary arrangements of the houses, especially in dryness and light, and also with the improved medical treatment, viz: antitoxin serum, the mortality from those dread diseases will still further be reduced.

Puerperal Fever.—The number of cases reported was 5, with 4 deaths, being a case mortality of 80 per cent.

Here again we have a very fatal disease, and though only 5 cases have been reported, so indefinite is the term Puerperal Fever, that the number of cases so reported may not necessarily give any true record of the septic disturbances following parturition. Without doubt sewer gas and other septic products of sewers are potent factors in producing septic disturbances after confinements. Any meteorological condition which produces a dry state of the atmosphere for a continued period, giving rise to a foul atmosphere, is a year when one might expect Puerperal Fever.

Erysipelas.—The number of cases notified was 33, and no deaths occurred.

Measles and Whooping Cough.—So far as I am aware, the district was free from Measels, but 3 deaths from Whooping Cough occurred in Witton Gilbert.

Influenza.—The district has been practically free from this disease, but during the last fortnight a few sporadic cases appeared.

Diarrhœa.—Diarrhœa has been especially prevalent and fatal, and if Gastro-Enteritis be taken as synonymous with Diarrhœa, the fatality is increased.

I consider that all deaths from Gastro-Enteritis, Enteric Catarrh and Enteritis, if occurring during the hot months of August, September, and earlier part of October, and the victims being infants should be classed under Diarrhœa, for while improper feeding will produce disturbances of the Gastro-intestinal tract, it has been proved beyond doubt that infantile Diarrhœa is chiefly produced by a zymotic agency whose habitat is the soil. That cause increases as the temperature of the soil taken 4 ft. below the surface reaches and rises above a mean of 56° Fh. While the cause of Summer Diarrhœa is a microbe, the virulency of the disease is increased by an

overcrowded condition of dwellings, by a sewage polluted soil, and especially by an overcrowded state of separate houses, or again while the dwelling may not be overcrowded, Diarrhœa is specially fatal to children living in one-roomed tenements, and this holds good in clean houses with careful mothers. In a series of cases, not selected, but where every parental care was taken, the case mortality was 66 per cent. in one-roomed tenements, and 17 per cent. in larger houses.

GENERAL SANITATION.

The amount of General Sanitary Improvements accomplished in your District during the six months has been extensive, and the amount now being undertaken is commensurate with that accomplished.

WATER SUPPLY.—In many places of your District the supply of water in the past has been either defective in quantity, so suspiciously gathered as to suggest it being dangerous to health, or the distance that the supply was situated from the houses so great as to entail hardship on the people.

Small extensions have been already carried out at Lambert's Place in the Township of Washington, and at the Hill Top in the Township of Barmston. At the following places a pure and adequate supply of water will shortly be laid on, viz: Hammer Square in the Township of Urpeth; Streetgate, Upper and Lower; Granby Terrace; and Eighton Banks, in the Township of Lamesley; The Mount and Springwell, and High Usworth, in the Township of Usworth; the Vale Pit in the Township of Birtley; and the Low Flats in the Township of Harraton. The united population of these places is over 3,300.

A supply of water of such a quality and from such a source as will engender confidence in its safety for drinking purposes still remains to be provided for Fatfield.

REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

In a portion of the Township of Chester-le-Street the removal of house refuse is now undertaken of your Council's men, horses and carts. You employ three men and two horses and carts, and the scavenging is done of about 1,350 houses. The work is very efficiently accomplished. While the economies of the undertaking are not sufficiently settled yet, it is believed your Council will pay less for the cleansing than while under contract. In other parts of the Township the cleansing of the ashpits is efficiently done.

The Township of Birtley contracts for the same work, and while the work is fairly well accomplished, it might be better. Portobello is not included in the contract area, and there the work is irregularly undertaken. This remark applies to the whole District where small owners' property is concerned, and this state of affairs arises in most cases, not from unwillingness on the owners' part, but from the difficulty in obtaining the means of removal especially when agriculturalists are busy.

Your Council has recently resolved that the Township of Washington shall undertake the cleansing of their ashpits, and here I consider that a step in the right direction has been taken.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

The smaller Townships of Cooen, Lambton, Biddick South, and Barnston do not have scope to show much new work.

HARRATON.—Privy and Ashpit accommodation has been provided for several houses at Portobello, and spouting has been put up at Harraton Pit, Brown's Buildings, and a little at Fatfield. At the latter place a few cesspool traps have been replaced by syphon gullies, but as these gullies are improperly connected with the sewer and only set in loose brickwork, the work from a sanitary point of view cannot be approved of.

Much is yet required to bring the village of Fatfield into a modern sanitary condition. Nearly twenty houses are without ashpit accommodation, the ashes and house refuse either lying in mounds near the houses or finding its way into the stream, while 17 houses are in a condition so injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation, and notice under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, has been served on the owners to abate the nuisance.

The drainage is in a most primitive and inefficient state.

LOW FLATS.—These houses (19 in number) are in a very unsatisfactory condition, they have neither any drainage nor water supply. The upper rooms are practically without any means of ventilation, and one cannot, by any stretch of imagination, say that they are anything but injurious to health.

WASHINGTON.—In this Township a marked improvement has taken place. The Old Rows, Fan Blast Square, and the New Rows have all been spouted. The untrapped sewer gullies at the Old Rows and Fan Blast Square have been removed and a trapped gully provided for each pair of houses. At the Cottages trapped gullies have been placed at the end of each row. At the New Rows the open channel has been replaced by a proper sewer with trapped syphon gullies and the offensive open ashpits removed and covered well ventilated ashpits built.

Aluminium Terrace, long a standing disgrace, void of any sanitary convenience, has now been provided with one ashcloset for every two houses. At River View the same Coal Company (North Biddick) has removed a very offensive large ashpit and built six ashclosets in its place. Improvements have been accomplished at the houses inhabited by Dow and Graham, and at Frost's, Barnston Ferry; but at those inhabited by Baister, Rothwell, and another, nothing yet has been done.

USWORTH.—At Usworth Colliery 50 ashpits and privies have been rebuilt and 4 new ones built, 300 yards of 10-inch sewers laid, over 100 houses have been spouted, and a subsoil drain to drain over 100 houses completed.

In Springwell the large open ashpits appertaining to Bowes Crescent are in such propinquity to the houses, that I hope next Annual Report will be able to say that they have been roofed.

LAMESLEY.—In this wide Township I am not so able to say what has been done as what ought to be done, yet at Sunnyside several ashpits and privies have been provided where none previously existed. Nearly all the houses at Upper and Lower Streetgate are without privy and ashpit accommodation, and the same remarks apply to many houses at Eighton Banks, and nearly all those houses are devoid of spouting. Representation has been made to owners of nearly all this property, and ample promises have been made to remedy the defects. At Bewick Main 37 privies and 2 ashpits have been built.

BIRTLEY.—At several places the house yards have been either cemented or repaired and the dilapidated privies and ashpits renovated, and on the whole the Township is in a fairly good sanitary condition.

One cannot fail to observe the very large waste of water from the stand pipes in certain parts of Birtley. Many of the taps are apparently out of order, while the carelessness of the users prevents the taps from being shut while not in use.

PELTON.—The chief defect in this Township is the want of means of proper drainage. Out-door accommodation is required at Hunt's Buildings, Colville's Buildings, and Munroe's Buildings. The Red Rows have been provided with one ash-closet for every two houses, a great improvement over the

past open ashpit, situated at the south end of the rows. The southern houses have been improved. At Middle Hold several houses are being raised, re-roofed, and otherwise improved.

CHESTER-LE-STREET.—18 privies, 10 ashpits, and 10 w.c.'s have been provided for old properties, where none previously existed, and spouts have been affixed to several houses. A public w.c. has been erected. At Pelton Colliery the roof and yard water has been conducted into sanitary pipes from nearly all the houses, and the remainder of the houses are being treated in the same way. Dryness of the walls at the base is thus secured. Three houses at the shops are being raised and otherwise improved. The very large ashpits at Chester South Moor Colliery are very objectionable, especially so from their proximity to the houses.

A Closing Order for a house situate in Pelton Lane has been obtained. The time given for the tenant to leave the house has not yet expired. *

LUMLEY—This village stands much in need of improvement. One of the great blots in this village is the absence of privy accommodation, at least 50 per cent. of the houses being privyless. Twenty-nine houses were in such a condition as to be injurious to health, and notice under the Housing of the Working Classes Act and Public Health Act, 1875, have been served on the owners.

Repairs have been effected to the houses situate in Pottery Row, Meek's Row, and one house in Herron's Row, and privies have been erected in several places. Six Ashclosets have been erected and plans passed for 28 more in Front Street, but I cannot say that the position chosen for their site, viz: between the footpath by the main road side and the houses,

* The house is now closed.

is either ornamental or private, and I consider that the owner of the land behind the houses—land at present yielding little if any return—should be approached, and pressed, to grant land for the erection of such necessary adjuncts to every house.

A great many of the houses are devoid of spouting, and the drainage of the whole village is in a very unsatisfactory condition.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

In Chester-le-Street Township 343 yards of sewers have either been relaid or added to the system, and in Uppethorpe Township 120 yards of new sewers have been completed.

Two extensive and two minor sewerage schemes have received your Council's approval, and the commencement of the work is only delayed until the engineer completes the plans and the L.G.B. gives its sanction.

One of the schemes is to embrace the drainage of Eighton Banks, Springwell, the Mount, High Fworth, Fworth Colliery, Washington, New Washington, and Washington Staiths. The Sewage is to be conducted into precipitating tanks, and if the L.G.B. consents, thence into the tidal Wear. The other large scheme is to embrace the drainage of Beemish, West Pelton, part of Grange Villa, Ouston, Perkinsville, Pelton, the greater part of Pelton Fell and Pit Hill, with sewage disposal works near Pelaw Hill Farm. One of the minor schemes is to drain a part of Chester-le-Street and the minor portion of Pelton Fell, with the outfall at Chester-le-Street Sewage Disposal Works. The other minor scheme is to drain the Village of Chester South Moor, and the sewage is to be treated by land filtration on an acre of land adjoining the Village.

The effective drainage of the Villages of Fatfield and Lannley and the Hamlet of Low Flats remains yet to be undertaken.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS.

The present Sewage Disposal Works give rise to periodical complaints from different sources, yet these works are acting as well as over-sewaged land can purify the sewage run into it.

Houses Newly Erected :

TOWNSHIP.			HOUSES.	TOWNSHIP.			HOUSES.
Barmston	...	...	0	Lumley (Great)	...	...	0
Biddick (South)	...	...	0	Lumley (Little)	...	...	0
Birtley	...	...	44	Pelton	...	...	2
Chester-le-Street	...	...	24	Plawsworth	...	...	5
Cocken	...	...	0	Urpeth	...	...	19
Edmondsley...	...	...	0	Usworth	...	...	1
Harraton	...	...	0	Waldridge	...	...	0
Lambton	...	...	0	Washington...	...	...	11
Lamesley	...	...	2	Witton Gilbert	...	...	14

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

During the past six months the benefits of your Isolation Hospital have been well taken advantage of. There have been 37 admissions, viz., 34 of Scarlet Fever and 3 of Typhoid Fever, and of these 19 Scarlets and 2 Typhoids have been discharged recovered, while 15 Scarlets and 1 Typhoid remain under treatment.*

* Since the 31st December, 13 of those remaining in the Hospital on that date have been discharged recovered.

The average number of days resident for each Scarlet Fever patient was 45, and for each Typhoid Fever patient was 31. During the 25 weeks you had on an average 9 patients daily resident.

Your Hospital, which was in a very incompletely furnished state, has been brought into a more modern and efficient condition.

Clinical thermometers, indexed ward thermometers and bed rests which were conspicuous by their absence have been provided.

After some trouble your Committee were able to make the roof watertight. The floors which were the roughest of the rough, have been all taken up, relaid, painted and varnished. The stove stalks, which permitted the smoke to escape and which were of the most cheap Jack description, have been replaced by substantial smoke-tight chimneys. A properly furnished Dispensing Cabinet has been provided. The down-comers, which were led directly into the drains through a so-called trap, have been effectively disconnected. The fire hydrant, which was so constructed as would most likely prevent the hose from being attached has been altered, so that so far as apparatus is concerned a fire could be effectively dealt with. Your Committee has also erected a drying apparatus and ironing room. Formerly the same room which was used as a kitchen had to do duty as a drying stove in wet weather. A slight re-arrangement of the staff was found imperative, and now, instead of the porter's wife acting as laundry maid, you have a laundry maid resident in the Hospital.

On the 16th December, Nurse-Matron Walker terminated her connection with your Hospital and the post was filled by Miss Crathorne, lately Matron at the Wallsend Isolation Hospital,

In conclusion, I have to thank your Council for the courtesy, kindness and support they have afforded me during my term of office.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN TAYLOR.

The Chairman and Members,
Rural District Council,
Chester-le-Street.



